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Joyce Ford

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Tuthill)

Art Unit: 3722

Serial No.: 09/971,131)

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: October 4, 2001)

For: SPINDLE NUT RETAINER)

Attorney Docket No.: 21488/04040)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Asst. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed to fulfill the duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office, as required pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Listed on the attached PTO form 1449 is information known to persons substantively involved in the preparation of the application identified above, and that a reasonable Examiner would consider important when deciding whether to allow the application. This document is not to be construed as a representation that a search to locate the most relevant information has been made, nor a representation that more pertinent information does not exist.

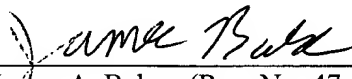
Copies of the information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449 are provided herewith.

The identification of any information herein is not intended to be, and should not be understood as being, an admission that such information, in fact, constitutes "prior art" within the meaning of applicable law. The "prior art" status of any information is a matter to be resolved during prosecution.

It is not believed that any fee is required relating to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. If this is not the case, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any related fee to Deposit Account No. 03-0172.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 1/7/02



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